

national security, and it is imperative that they be reauthorized before they expire at the end of this year. The reauthorization bill is narrow in scope, and many amendments were proposed at the committee markup that had little or nothing to do with the reauthorization of FISA. As I stated during the markup, I may have supported or been open to working out a compromise on several of the amendments in other contexts. However, I voted in opposition to all of the extraneous amendments offered because I felt their adoption would threaten the timely passage of the FISA reauthorization bill. That is not a risk I was willing to take.

In particular, as for Senator KYL's amendment to criminalize certain behavior that would reward past terrorist acts and Senator GRASSLEY's amendment to impose the death penalty on terrorists who use weapons of mass destruction, I want to make clear that I strongly oppose the funding of terrorism and I believe that terrorists should be subject to the death penalty. I support the objectives of both of these amendments, but I was concerned that their adoption by the committee could delay or prevent passage of the FISA reauthorization bill. I am prepared to work with Senator KYL and Senator GRASSLEY to address these important issues at a more appropriate time going forward.

I hope that these amendments and others are raised in the appropriate context so they can be adequately addressed.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL W. BRICKER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our men and women in uniform sacrifice much to keep our Nation strong and free. They are well-trained, extraordinarily capable and are some of our country's best and brightest. It is with this in mind that I recognize COL Paul W. Bricker as he retires from the United States Army this week. Colonel Bricker has served our country in uniform for more than a quarter of a century, and I am honored to congratulate him on a long and distinguished military career.

COL Paul W. Bricker has served as the Chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division since May 2011. As a member of the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, Colonel Bricker was responsible for advising Army senior leadership on legislative and congressional issues, as well as assisting Senators and our staff on Army matters. It is in this capacity that my Armed Services Committee staff and I have worked closely with Colonel Bricker. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently provided important technical expertise and useful insight on the issues, challenges and opportunities that face our soldiers and their families and has exemplified the highest level of professionalism. I also benefited from Colonel Bricker's organiza-

tional diligence and military insights on a number of congressional delegation trips over the past year, including to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and NATO. The success of these trips were due in large part to Colonel Bricker's careful preparation and adaptability in making course corrections on the fly, often literally.

Colonel Bricker has strong Michigan roots. He is a native of northern Michigan and a proud graduate of Michigan State University, where, upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Aviation. Colonel Bricker has served in a variety of tactical and operational assignments from platoon to corps level in airborne, air assault, light infantry, and motorized units in the United States, Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Korea. He has commanded in combat with the 82nd Airborne Division at both the battalion and brigade level. Additionally, in 2007, he served as the 82nd Airborne Division's Rear Detachment Commander, and from 2005–2006, as the Chief of Aviation for the Multi National Corps-Iraq.

From 2008 to 2010, Colonel Bricker commanded the 82nd Airborne Division's Combat Aviation Brigade and led them to war on short notice as part of the Afghanistan surge. He assumed no-notice responsibility for the DoD Consequence Management Response Force Aviation Brigade while simultaneously executing Department of the Army Pilot Reset. Once in Afghanistan, his brigade supported more than 40,000 coalition troops in Regional Command-South with lift, reconnaissance, MEDEVAC, and attack aviation. They executed the largest air assault in our nation's history without error or incident, a testament to his exceptional leadership. Colonel Bricker's brigade was commended by the ISAF Joint Command Deputy Commander for his exceptional maintenance and safety record under the most trying combat conditions.

We know that our military personnel don't shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone, and Colonel Bricker is no exception. His wife, Katie, and their three children, Jacob, Jesse and Sophia, have proudly stood by his side, sacrificing time with their husband and father while he fulfills his military commitments.

As he retires, Colonel Bricker leaves behind an impressive record of military service and his counsel, professionalism and expertise will surely be missed. Throughout his service to our Nation, Colonel Bricker has been a shining example for the people of Michigan and the United States, and for this, we offer him our heartfelt thanks. I know my colleagues join me in wishing Colonel Bricker and his family all the best as he begins the next chapter in his life.

22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, July 26, 1990—22 years ago today was a great day in our Nation's history. When President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, we could see the future before us, full of possibility and opportunity for people with disabilities. It was one of the proudest days of my legislative career.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century—a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for Americans with disabilities. The ADA has played a huge role in making our country more accessible, in raising the expectations of people with disabilities about what they can hope to achieve at work and in life, and in inspiring the world to view disability issues through the lens of equality and opportunity.

In these times, it is valuable to remember that passage of the original Americans with Disabilities Act was a robustly bipartisan effort. As chief sponsor of the ADA in the Senate, I worked very closely with Senator Bob Dole and others on both sides of the aisle. We received invaluable support from President George Herbert Walker Bush and key members of his administration, including White House Counsel Boyden Gray, Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, and Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner. Other Members of Congress also played critical roles in passing the ADA first and foremost, Senator Ted Kennedy; but also Senator ORRIN HATCH, and Representatives Tony Coelho, STENY HOYER, Major Owens, and Steve Bartlett.

Before the ADA, life was very different for folks with disabilities in Iowa and across the country. Being an American with a disability meant not being able to ride on a bus because there was no lift, not being able to attend a concert or ball game because there was no accessible seating, and not being able to cross the street in a wheelchair because there were no curb cuts. In short, it meant not being able to work or participate in community life. Discrimination was both commonplace and accepted.

Since then, we have seen amazing progress. The ADA literally transformed the American landscape by requiring that architectural and communications barriers be removed and replaced with accessible features such as ramps, lifts, curb cuts, widening doorways, and closed captioning. More importantly, the ADA gave millions of Americans the opportunity to participate in their communities. We have made substantial progress in advancing the four goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

But despite this progress, we still have more work to do. Last month marked the 13th anniversary of the